

Recreation

Within a large region like the I-405 Corridor Study Area, there may be publicly owned properties, such as parks, recreation areas and wildlife refuges, and sites of historic or national significance, which require review under Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act. The material provided here is intended to provide information about the affected recreation environment in a corridor-level environmental review.

DEIS Maps

For the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and its accompanying documents (i.e., the “Draft Recreation Resources Expertise Report,” recreation site information was compiled from local sources and mapped using a geographic information system (GIS). “[Affected Environment – Parks and Trails](#)” is the resulting map. The sites are identified in green. Although the map makes no distinction among the different types of sites (e.g., parks, trails, and sports fields), information is provided in the DEIS and in Expertise documents on the types of public parks and their names.

The other map in the DEIS Expertise report contains the same park-related information, with Alternative 3 projects (both highway and transit) overlain onto the recreational resources map. The resulting map was used to calculate the acreage of recreational resources that could be affected.

RS/GIS Maps

The map listed under Remote Sensing/Geographic Information Systems (RS/GIS) products – “[Affected Environment – Parks and Trails](#)” – was generated using a combination of DEIS data and remotely sensed imagery. Data on parks and trails were developed for the DEIS, and were overlain onto a standard map-template that has major roads, lakes, places, and other features. Parks are local- or state-administrative designations that mainly comprise the following land-cover designations identified from remotely sensed imagery: grass and shrubs, and forest (refer to the RS/GIS “[Current Land Use Map](#)”). Some urban built-up or mixed land cover is identified within park boundaries as well. Golf courses were identified through a combination of automated classification of the imagery based on spectral signature, and interpretation of aerial photography. The RS/GIS map distinguishes between golf courses (darker green) and other types of recreation areas (lighter green). No distinction is made between public and private areas.

The second map, “[Alternative 3 Projects w/Parklands](#),” shows Alternative 3 projects (both highway and transit) overlain onto the recreational resources map. This map was also used to calculate the acreage of recreational resources that could be affected, but based on the RS/GIS data instead.

The third map listed under Remote Sensing/Geographic Information Systems (RS/GIS) products, “[Parks and Land Cover in the Study Area](#),” has the boundaries of the parks overlain onto a land cover map. Land cover was classified using automated classification of remotely sensed imagery based on spectral signatures, together with field verification and validation. The map indicates the make-up of the land cover within parks (generally

grass and shrubs, and forest), as well as their proximity to other land cover.

The fourth map, "[Watershed Boundaries and Parklands in the Study Area](#)," shows watershed boundaries, parks and golf courses overlain onto hill-shaded topography.